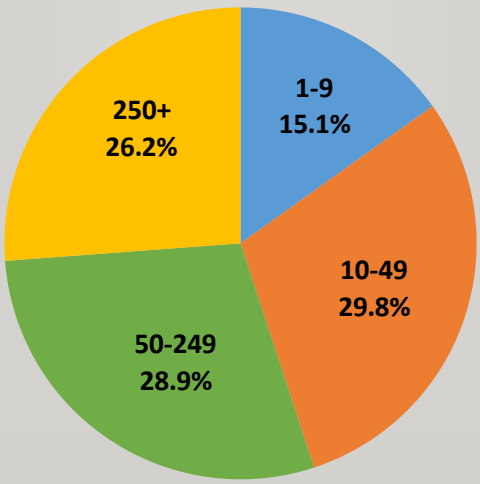
2018 Missouri Businesses by Size

Percentage of Employment by Business Size

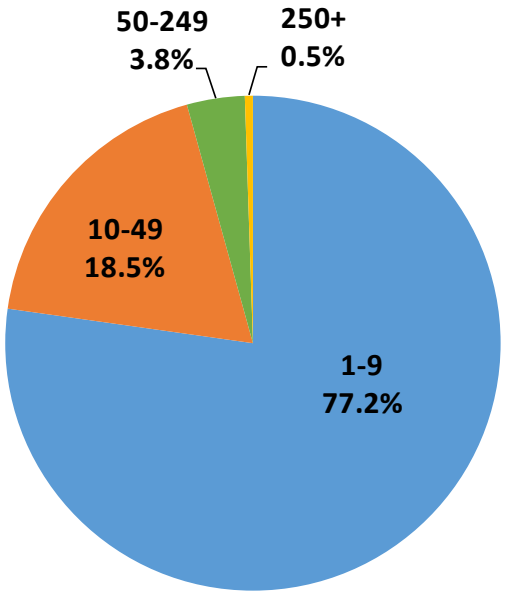
Small businesses in Missouri employ a large part of the private sector workforce. 45 percent of private sector employees work for a small business (less than 50 employees). Medium sized businesses (50-249 employees) employ 28.9 percent of the private sector workforce, while large employers (250 or more) employ 26.2 percent.



Number of Businesses by Size

Missouri had 186,933 private sector employers in the 1st quarter of 2018.* Very small businesses comprised a majority of this total, with 77.2 percent of Missouri businesses employing less than ten people. Firms employing 1 to 49 workers made up 95.7 percent of all businesses in Missouri.

Number of Employees	Number of Businesses
1-4	116,675
5-9	27,690
10-19	20,036
20-49	14,498
50-99	4,660
100-249	2,396
250-499	665
500-999	206
1000+	107
TOTAL	**186,933**

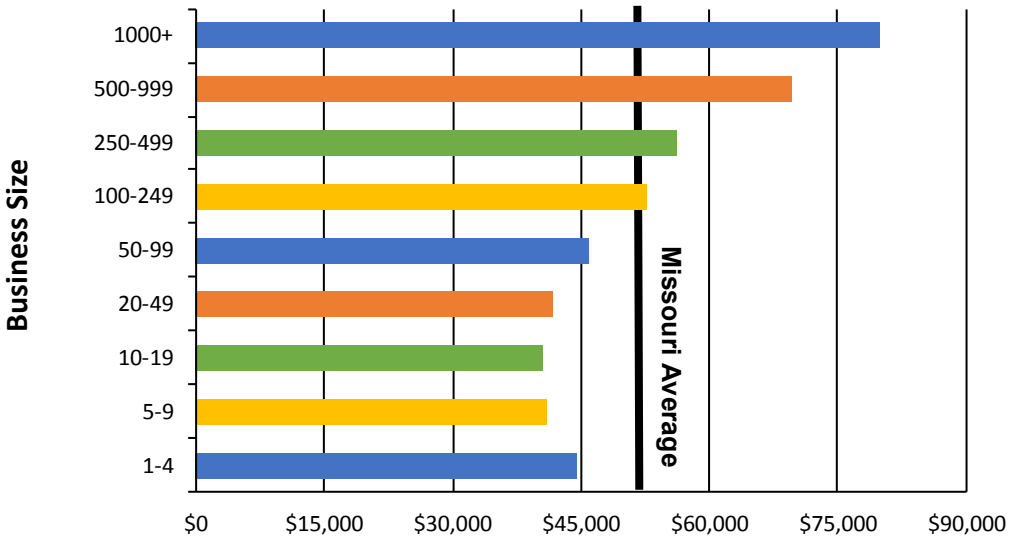


*See notes for source and details.

Wages by Business Size

Wages were calculated using 1st quarter data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The average annual wage in Missouri for 2018, regardless of business size, was $49,586. Wages were highest at businesses that employed 1,000 or more people with average wages equaling $79,924. Establishments that employed 10 to 19 people had the lowest average wage at $40,560.

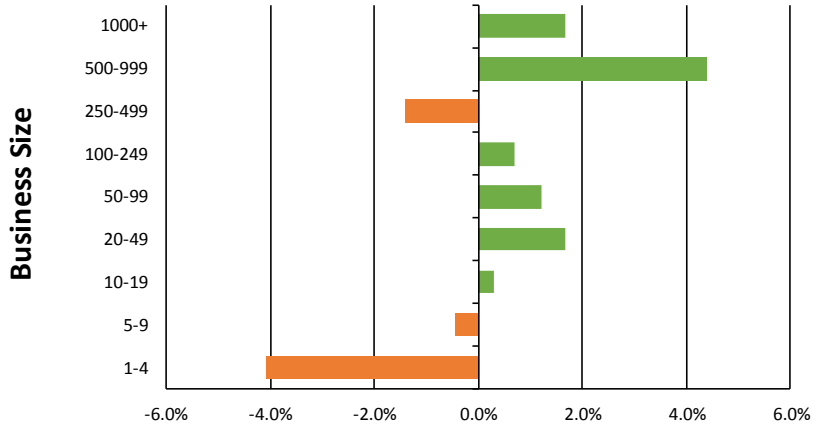
Average Wages by Business Size



2018 Employment Trends by Business Size

Employment levels were calculated using 1st quarter data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Most business sizes experienced an increase in employment, except three. Businesses that ranged from 250-499, 5-9, and 1-4 experienced negative growth by –1.4, –0.4 and –4.0 percent, respectively. Businesses that employed 500-999 people had the largest growth of 4.4 percent. Overall, Missouri businesses added 12,913 employees between 1st quarter 2017 and 1st quarter 2018.

Employment Change from 2017 to 2018 by Business Size

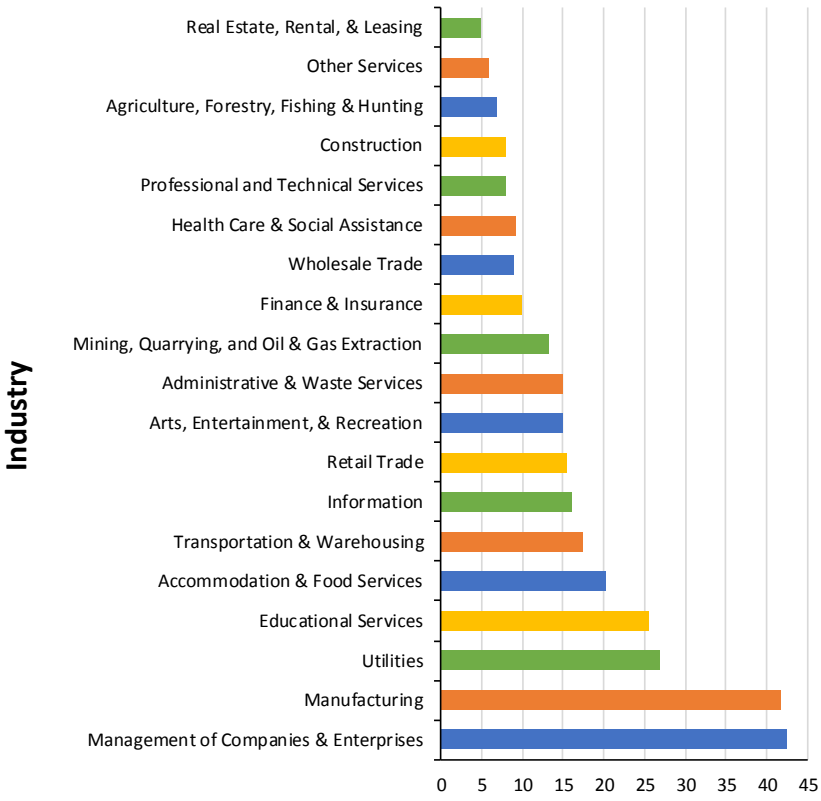


Business Size	Employment Change 2017-2018
1000+	4,063
500-999	5,948
250-499	-3,149
100-249	2,469
50-99	3,734
20-49	7,056
10-19	788
5-9	-765
1-4	-7,230
Total	**12,913**

Average Size of Business by Industry

The average business size was 16 employees in 1st quarter 2018. Two industries had an average employment of 40 or more: The *Management of Companies* and *Manufacturing* industries both had the largest average size with 42 workers per business. *Utilities* and *Educational Services* industries also had high average employment with 27 and 25 workers per business, respectively. The *Real Estate* industry had the lowest average employment with 5 workers per business.

Average Employment per Industry



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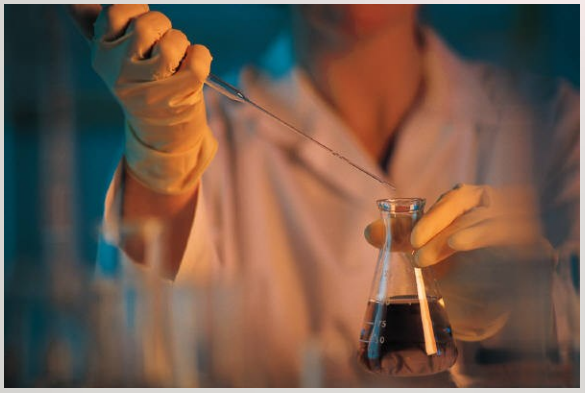

NOTES:

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) monitors business sizes through unemployment insurance accounts established in the state. This allows MERIC to gauge the number of businesses by size, industry, and wages.

Even though annual data is available for employer size counts (page one), 1st quarter is used for data congruency across multi-source availability being subject to only 1st quarter release at the time of this document.

Business data is derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, a cooperative program between the Bureau of Labor Statistics and state labor market information centers.

Non-employer businesses, such as sole proprietors, are monitored through a U.S. Census program that uses administrative data, chiefly IRS returns, to develop statistics. Non-employer businesses account for less than 4 percent of all sales but do account for the largest number of businesses. More information is available at:

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nonemployer-statistics.html

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